

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: PRELA ARTICLE OF APRIL 10, 1977 -- "BURNHAM
DENOUNCES DESTABILIZATION AT YOUTH CONGRESS"

REF: GEORGETOWN 727

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRELA ARTICLE DATED APRIL 10,
1977:

BEGIN TEXT: "GEORGETOWN, 10 APR--PRIME MINISTER FORBES
BURNHAM TODAY DENOUNCED THE NUMEROUS METHODS USED BY
THE IMPERIALISTS TO DESTABILIZE THE ECONOMY AND CALLED
UPON THE YOUNG TO BE 'ALERT TO DEFEND THE GUYANESE REVO-
LUTION.' GUYANA, HE SAID, IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN THE
TARGET OF DESTABILIZATION MANEUVERS. IN 1975, 'OUR
BORDERS WERE TENSE AND THERE WAS AN INTENSIVE PRESS CAM-
PAIGN' AGAINST OUR PROCESS, HE STATED. THE GUYANESE
LEADER WARNED AGAINST UNDERESTIMATING THE ENEMY AND SAID
THAT IMPERIALISM 'IS NOT DEAD'; IT CHANGES TACTICS AND
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METHODS AND CAN ASSUME VARIOUS SHAPES IN DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES. BURNHAM GAVE EXAMPLES, SUCH AS NAMIBIA AND
ZIMBABWE, WHERE IMPERIALIST DOMINATION PREVAILS AND
SAID THAT AS LONG AS SUCH SITUATIONS EXIST IN THE WORLD,
'OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE IS THREATENED.'

"THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY SPOKE FOR 75 MINUTES DURING THE

INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST BIENNIAL CONGRESS OF THE SOCIALIST YOUTH MOVEMENT, THE YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) PARTY. BURNHAM DEVOTED A LARGE PART OF HIS SPEECH TO DESTABILIZATION MANEUVERS, NOTING THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ANGOLA, DESTABILIZATION TOOK THE FORM OF A MILITARY ATTACK BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS, AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM. THE IMPERIALIST GOAL IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED THEIR INDEPENDENCE, BURNHAM STATED, IS TO CONTINUE CONTROLLING THEIR ECONOMIES SO AS TO DOMINATE THEM AGAIN. HERE IN GUYANA EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS DONE TO MAKE US LOSE CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES, IN OUR PHILOSOPHY AND IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR REVOLUTION, HE RECALLED.

"DESTABILIZATION, THE GUYANESE LEADER STRESSED, DOES NOT HAVE TO TAKE THE SHAPE OF AN ARMY, NAVY OR AIR FORCE SINCE IT CAN ALSO ASSUME THE FORM OF TERRORISM, SUCH AS THE SABOTAGE OF THE CUBAN AIRCRAFT OFF BARBADOS LAST OCTOBER. DESTABILIZATION, HE CONTINUED, CAN ALSO COME IN THE FORM OF RUMORS, AS WAS THE CASE LAST YEAR WHEN WE CELEBRATED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE. AT THAT TIME WE WERE THREATENED WITH AN 'INVASION.' HE ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TWO FIRES IN THE IMPORTANT LUMBER INDUSTRY IN ADDITION TO OTHER STRANGE OCCURRENCES IN THAT INDUSTRY.

"LATER ON HE DENOUNCED RUMORS CIRCULATING OVER THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION AFFECTING THE COUNTRY, THEREBY CREATING A GREATER DISCONTENT AMONG THE PEOPLE. BURNHAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPARED THESE RUMORS TO THE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILEAN FASCIST 'PATRIA Y LIBERTAD' GROUP OPPOSED TO PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE'S POPULAR GOVERNMENT. HE RECALLED THAT THIS GROUP PROMOTED STRIKES AND EMPTY POT MARCHES IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT ALLENDE'S DOWNFALL.

"WITH REGARD TO RECENT RUMORS, BURNHAM MENTIONED THAT A MAN IDENTIFIED AS 'MAGNUM BLOOD' -- NOW UNDER ARREST -- HAD CIRCULATED THE RUMOR AMONG CERTAIN FOREIGN EMBASSIES OVER AN ALLEGED AGREEMENT BETWEEN GUYANA AND THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH A NAVAL BASE HERE. THE GUYANESE LEADER SAID THAT THE RUMOR WAS RIDICULOUS, BUT THAT SEVERAL AMBASSADORS BELIEVES THE RUMOR. HE ALSO WARNED YOUTH TO BE ALERT TO THESE THREATS AND SAID THAT IF THEY REALLY WANT TO BE 'THE VANGUARD OF THE GUYANESE REVOLUTIONARY VANGUARD,' THEY MUST BE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THEIR CLASS. THEY MUST BE COURAGEOUS FIGHTERS AND THEY MUST WORK AMONG THE PEOPLE.

BURNHAM CONGRATULATED THE MORE THAN 1,000 YOUTHS WHO HAD COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND OTHER SUBJECTS, BUT SAID THAT THEORY IS NOT ENOUGH. THEY MUST GO TO THE UNIONS, COOPERATIVES, AGRICULTURAL SECTORS AND THE MILITIA. HE URGED THEM TO MAKE A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY YOUTH AND URGED THEM TO WORK TO ELIMINATE RACIAL TENSION AND TO CREATE A GUYANESE SPIRIT THAT WILL PREVAIL OVER ALL ETHNIC AND RACIAL LINES IN THE COUNTRY.

"THIS WAS THE GUYANESE PRIME MINISTER'S FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE AFTER A MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED REST PERIOD. ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS, HE APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS SPEECH THE GUYANESE LEADER WELCOMED THE FRATERNAL DELEGATIONS FROM CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION, VIETNAM, JAMAICA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA. SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND DEPUTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIME MINISTER PTOLEMY REID, PNC SECRETARY GENERAL, ALSO ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF THE CONGRESS. TOMORROW THE FOREIGN DELEGATES WILL PRESENT THE GREETINGS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND THE CONGRESS WILL BEGIN ITS WORK SESSIONS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS." END TEXT.

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THIS REPORT WILL BE WELCOME.
CHRISTOPHER

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